

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

GRANDSTAFF *CG*

ROKOSCH *GR*

THOMPSON *AT*

CHILCOTT *CH*

DRISCOLL *DR*

PLETTENBERG (Clerk & Recorder)

Members Present..... Commissioner Carlotta Grandstaff,  
Commissioner Jim Rokosch, Commissioner Alan Thompson, Commissioner Greg  
Chilcott and Commissioner Kathleen Driscoll

Date.....March 14, 2008

Minutes: Beth Perkins

- The Board met to discuss their litigation strategy for the Saddle Hills lawsuit and Floyd vs. Ravalli County with Civil Counsel. Closed door was invoked.
- The Board met for discussion and possible decision for appointment of two Board of Adjustment members with the terms ending February 8, 2010.

**Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to appoint Don Henry to a two year term. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. All voted 'aye'.**

The Board discussed the other two candidates and their reasoning for not appointing either to the Board. Commissioner Chilcott stated he would not support the appointment of Bob Scott to the Board of Adjustment due to past conflicts. He also discussed Bob Frost who is already serving on the Tax Appeals Board, and Commissioner Chilcott noted he would like Bob's expertise to remain on that Board.

**Commissioner Rokosch made a motion to appoint Bob Frost to the Board of Adjustment. Motion died to lack of a second. Commissioner Grandstaff requested re-advertisement of the current openings.**

- The Board met with Members of the Victor Fire District in regard to their continued request of utilizing the storage garage the Road Department currently utilizes at the Victor Fire Department. They are in need of a new fire hall and want to have the county deed this property over to them for construction. Fire Chief Tommy Dobberstein stated

they need to expand and they do not have enough room to do so. They either have to do some major renovations to the building they have or build a new building. The current building has been added onto several times and their heating bill is \$1,000 per month. If they renovate, they will still be cramped for room. There are 6 lots there, and they have the agreement for four of the lots right now. The Board of Directors has concluded if they are going to put that kind of money into the building they should own the lots. If there is another location for the Road Department shed, then it makes more sense to move it. They have talked to the property owner to the south and they are working on a first right of refusal. The property owner is willing to contact the Fire Department when he decides to sell it. They own property on Sweathouse and Iroquois Trail that they can give the county for their storage shed which is just one mile away. They had 226 calls last year and these calls will continue to grow. They have equipment that they have no place to go. They would like the deed to those 6 lots. They recognize there is a certain cost in replacing the building and they would be willing to pay for that replacement, which includes electricity.

Commissioner Grandstaff noted David's recommendation is an appraisal be made then sold to the Fire Department, and or trade with another building. No gift or sale should be made. David stated the Iroquois Trail area is used for dumping and is not a suitable site for building. It was offered for sale a few years ago and no one offered to buy it. He stated it is difficult to obtain a septic on that space as they would need that as a rest area in the future. He suggested they find similar property in the area that gives them the ability to have a restroom etc., and replace the storage shed. A trade could be done, or a value established for this other land then purchased.

Tommy stated any storage facility does not have to have septic as the one they currently use now does not have septic or water. David stated they are thinking of future use. Commissioner Chilcott read chapter 22, section 8 for exchange of real property needed an appraisal. Tommy stated that code is not what they follow. Commissioner Grandstaff stated they need to review "conduct of county business". Review of 7-8-101; memo from James McCubbin relative to trade of properties from one governmental agency to another one. Tommy stated George reviewed a different segment of the law which will need to be located for future discussion.

Commissioner Chilcott stated these lots are assets of value to the county. Tommy stated that land was not given to the county for sale; it was for public works/safety.

Commissioner Rokosch stated the Board needs to see if Iroquois is a suitable piece of property for a storage shed. David stated that land is 3 1/3 acres, and is a remnant of some kind with ravine in the middle of it. Dave Meadow and Roylene Gaul came to look at the current shed as we have two years left on the roof. The Board concurred. Commissioner Chilcott stated the Board needs to decide if it is necessary to the conduct of county business first. Commissioner Rokosch stated there is an alternative which is Iroquois Trail, so we don't need to clarify if that land is necessary.

David stated if I want someone's property and they don't want to trade, it is not right to force it. We have looked at the Iroquois property and that will not work for us, therefore we can get the appraisal and make the trade.

It was agreed to meet on site March 28<sup>th</sup> at 0900.

► The Board discussed the cancellation of the 2008 annual election for the West Fork Rural Fire District due to the fact that no one filed for the positions. The Fire District responded with a letter asking the Commissioners to appoint Richard Bonnet to continue in another term to the Fire District. **Commissioner Grandstaff made a motion to appoint Richard Bonnet to continue in another term. Commissioner Driscoll seconded the motion and all voted "aye".**

► The Board met with Administrative Director Skip Rosenthal and Deputy Civil Counsel Karen Mahar in regard to various administrative matters prior to his departure from county employment as follows:

- Employee Assistance Program – the rates have increased but not significantly, however some of the benefits have declined. Skip suggested the county enter into another one-year agreement as it decreases the liability of the county as there are some benefits for the employees such as the de-briefing with the agreement that EAP provide a Sexual Harassment Seminar for supervisory staff by Employee EAP John Carson. John was placed on speaker phone to discuss the declining benefits and increase in rates as well as his agreement to have two one-hour Sexual Harassment Seminars. John agreed to that seminar training. **Commissioner Rokosch made a motion to approve the 1-year contract with EAP with the agreement that John have the seminar training. Commissioner Chilcott seconded the motion and all voted "aye".**
- Skip also addressed the Johnson Control Performance Contract handing over the working folder to Glenda who will track the lighting rebate and provide documentation when the work is completed to Northwestern Energy. It was agreed Commissioner Thompson will be the point person on this upcoming work. Skip noted he has already filled out the lighting rebate.
- Skip also presented the Employee Action Forms that were previously submitted by the Sheriff. Skip also included a spread sheet on the retroactive amounts for wages, COLA and benefit costs. The forms were placed with Glenda.
- Skip addressed Cal Robinson being appointed as the acting Youth Detention Director by Employee Action Form. Skip prepared an analysis of Cal's overtime that he has worked since he is not an exempt employee. Skip stated the county met the requirements for this promotion and hiring of the Director's position. Skip suggested this position be kept at non-exempt, review the amount of overtime he obtains over the next few months then re-evaluate the exempt status. The Board discussed the previous salary of Lori Roderick and the exempt and non-exempt status. The Board concurred to take the salary level up and make it an exempt status effective March 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Skip presented a folder with the contracts for the extension office. The folder was placed with Glenda.

- Skip presented a folder with the contracts for Jeff Minkler. The folder was placed with Glenda.
- Skip checked with Job Service and found only three applications for the Human Resource Director position. The Board will need to review these after Monday and decide if they have a qualified pool of applicants to choose from. In the interim of this position being filled the Board concurred that while Verona Stromberg can handle some questions for benefits etc., the point of contact person for any issues that might result in legal issues or further research would be Commissioner Grandstaff.
- Skip also indicated while his employee status is terminated as of March 14, 2008, he is available for hourly work on an as needed basis for any interim period. This position would be without benefit or insurance. The Board appreciated and understood the need to utilize Skip on certain issues.
- Skip addressed a five-year contract with US Fish Wildlife Service. Also present was Weed Supervisor Kellieann Morris. They would like a new agreement allowing an employee of the county to spray weeds on Lee Metcalf Refuge which also is a reduction of monies for this service, no education and no travel costs and is very specific on the job function. The new contract would be on a year-to-year basis as funding is available. Commissioner Chilcott stated while he likes the cooperative agreement with the Fish and Wildlife and Service, he also expressed concern for the workers compensation issues that could result in a liability issue for the county. Skip noted the money offered for this salary does not cover the benefits of this position, the licensing or any travel or overtime. Kellieann stated she could take this contract back to the Wildlife Service and express the Commissioners' concerns. The Commissioners concurred. Skip noted the Worker's Compensation for this position is very high and their offered money does not cover all of the expenses. Handling pesticides and utilizing an ATV exposes the employee to some risk. Commissioner Chilcott stated he does not see enough benefit to absorb the extra cost and potential liability. The problem will be that the employee who has been doing this work would not have that work available to him. Skip noted the last contract with the Wildlife Service was a 5-year contract that began in 2005 for the last funding that would cover the necessary salary, worker's compensation etc. Fish and Wildlife Service has not given the county a 60-day notice to pull out of the current contract.